

TWENTY-FIVE WEEVILS IN ONE SEED

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The amazing number of twenty-five large brown Bruchidæ (6-7 mm.) were packed into a seed, similar to the one photographed, of a diameter of one inch. The seed is from the vine *Mucuna rostrata* Benth., and is called locally Ojo de Venado (Deer's Eye), no doubt because of its size and warm brown color. It was collected by Charles M. Bogert of the American Museum of Natural History on his recent trip to Honduras in April, 1949, on the Rio Yeguaré, at the Hacienda San Francisco, in Morazan Province.

The Bruchid was kindly identified by H. S. Barber as *Caryedes faldermanni* Mannerheim, which at one time was considered a synonym of *C. brasiliensis* Thunberg, a more southern species. Both species were formerly in the genus *Pseudopachymerus*, formerly *Bruchus*.

When dug out of the seed, the Bruchids unfolded their legs and ran about quickly, some attempting to fly. One, sex unknown, did fly off and escape. Of the remaining twenty-four exactly half proved to be males. The male has a small prominence, or pimple, on the pygidium just above the middle, which is lacking in the female. The insects were covered with particles of what was left of their habitation. The walls of the seed, as would be expected from such a numerous brood, had been eaten quite thin and the partitions between each individual's cavity were no thicker than tissue paper.



The photograph, posed with a relaxed insect, was taken by John C. Pallister of the American Museum of Natural History.